

3. THE 1996 ADOPTED THOROUGHFARE PLAN

This chapter will discuss the travel service of each corridor as it relates to the entire system of roads, recommended improvements for the adopted thoroughfare plan, and the public involvement process. The 1996 Adopted Thoroughfare Plan is shown in Figure 3. Facility type explanations are found in Chapter 2 - Thoroughfare Planning Principles.

FREEWAYS

US 74/76 Bypass

US 74/76 Bypass is the area's only freeway. It provides service for through traffic from Charlotte, Rockingham/Hamlet and Wilmington. Motorists using the US 74/76 Bypass have three easily accessible interchanges into the Whiteville/Brunswick urban area.

MAJOR THOROUGHFARES

US 701 Bypass/NC 130

This corridor traverses the entire planning area from north to south. It is a major radial which carries local, regional, and statewide traffic. Commercial development has increased along this corridor making its practical capacity diminish.

Western Bypass

The Western Bypass in essence is a bypass for US 701 Bypass. As commercial development continues to grow on US 701 Bypass, long range future traffic on US 701 Bypass may begin to worsen capacity. The Western Bypass would provide developmental opportunities for the area. In order to assure that the Western Bypass does not develop the same problems as US 701 Bypass, it is essential that partial control of access be provided.

NC 130

This corridor is located mainly in the Brunswick and south Whiteville area. It provides access for the Columbus County Airport and the fairgrounds. NC 130 not only links the Whiteville/Brunswick area with the Coastal beaches of North and South Carolina; but it is a Hurricane Evacuation Route for them. One of Columbus County's largest employers, National Spinning, lies off of NC 130.

US 74/76 Business/NC 130

This corridor traverses the northern planning area from east to west. It is a major radial which mostly carries local traffic and regional traffic. Columbus County Hospital lies off of US 74/76 Business along with other medical complexes and some industrial land uses. The Historic Columbus County Courthouse located in a functioning traffic circle also lies on US 74/76. The